GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:145
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013
SAFE DRINKING WATER
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of population which have no access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in the country including Jharkhand, State/UT-wise; and

(b) the details of Government`s strategy to address such sensitive issues in specific time-frame?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) & (b) As reported by the States, including Jharkhand, on the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, as on 28.11.2013, out of 16,90,870 rural habitations in the country, there are 78,757 rural habitations, in which at least one drinking water source is affected by chemical contamination like excess Iron, Fluoride, Arsenic, Salinity or Nitrate. It is estimated that about 4.21 crore population in the country may be at risk due to chemical contamination in drinking water. Details of water quality affected habitations and population affect as reported by States is as Annexure-1. The percentage of population which have no access to sanitation facilities in the country including Jharkhand, as reported by Census 2011, State/UT-wise is at Annexure-2.

Apart from chemical contamination, testing of rural drinking water sources is also done by the State, district and sub-divisional laboratories set up in the States and wherever such contamination is found, action is taken by the State Department dealing with rural drinking water supply by undertaking disinfection through chlorination. For setting up laboratories and testing drinking water quality, 3% of funds allocated to States could be utilized on 100% central sharing basis.

Further, out of total 171 districts affected with Japanese Encephalitis/ Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (JE/AES), the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has identified 60 high priority districts in 5 States viz., Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal which are severely affected JE/AES. The Ministry has made a provision of 5% of NRDWP as special funds for tackling water problems, of which 25% of this provision is earmarked and released to these 5 States only to tackle JE/AES problems in drinking water sources. The interventions informed to the States for to tackle JE/AES problems and provide safe drinking water in these 5 areas include Sanitary inspection of all sources in the affected areas, Raising of hand pump platforms, Plugging all leaks and cracks in the hand pump platforms and casing pipe, Proper Solid and Liquid Waste management with clearing of soakage pits and drainage channel attached to the hand pumps, Conversion of shallow public hand pumps into India Mark-II hand pumps, Drilling of deep tubewell, energizing it with 1 hp motor and pump water into stand posts (with atleast 4 taps) constructed nearby and add bleaching powder, Disinfect all public drinking water sources and Generate awareness amongst the people to consume only safe drinking water and also put the habit of boiling water and consuming it.

Drinking Water supply is a State subject. The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States under the NRDWP to supplement their efforts in providing safe drinking water in adequate quantity to the rural population. Up to 67% of the funds released to the States could be utilized for coverage and tackling water quality affected habitations by providing safe drinking water. States have been advised strongly to accord priority to tackle water quality affected habitations and provide safe water in a time bound manner through piped water supply from safe sources. Government of India has made a paradigm shift in the rural sanitation programme, the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) which is now called the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), in the XIIth Five Year Plan. The objective of NBA is to achieve sustainable behavior change with provision of sanitary facilities in entire communities in a phased, saturation mode with "Nirmal Grams' as outcomes. The goal is to achieve 100% access to sanitation for all rural households by 2022.

Under NBA, following strategy has been adopted :

There has been a shift from focusing on individuals for the construction of individual household toilets, to covering whole communities in a Gram Panchayat saturation mode approach, aimed at achieving holistic sanitation outcomes.

The provision of providing Incentives for construction of individual household latrine units has been widened to cover APL households, who belong to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), small and marginal farmers, landless labourers with homesteads, physically challenged and women headed households, in addition to all BPL households. The financial incentive for all eligible beneficiaries, for the construction of toilets, has been raised to Rs. 4600/- (Rs. 5100/- hilly and difficult areas) , from the earlier amount of Rs. 3200/-. In addition, upto Rs. 4500/- is provided under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

for construction of the toilet. Therefore, along with the beneficiary contribution of Rs. 900/-, Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. 10,500/- for Hilly and difficult areas), is now available for construction of toilet.

Under the NBA, 15% of the total outlay of district projects has been provided for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities, which focuses on increasing awareness of the programme and the need for safe and sustainable sanitation.

The Ministry has in the year 2012, launched a Sanitation and Hygiene Advocacy and Communication Strategy Framework (2012-2017). This provides a guideline on the various IEC activities to be carried at various levels, in a phased manner. It also provides a framework for States to develop State-specific action plans for rolling out of the strategy.

For effective dissemination of IEC messages on rural sanitation, provision to engage Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), village level motivators (Swachhata Doots/Sanitation Managers), field functionaries like Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Anganwadi Workers, School Teachers, and Bharat Nirman Volunteers have been made in the NBA Guidelines.

Promoting a conjoint approach with National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), to ensure water availability for sanitation services in Gram Panchayats. There is also increased convergence of the NBA with programmes of associated Ministries including Health, School Education, Women and Child Development.